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31 Jan 77 Orgl Scientology

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(SCIENTOLOGY)

WASHINGTON (UPI) -- THE CHURCH OF SCIENTOLOGY FILED A $750-MILLION SUIT TODAY AGAINST THE NATION'S CRIMINAL, INTELLIGENCE AND DIPLOMATIC AGENCIES, CHARGING VIOLATIONS OF THE CIVIL AND CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS OF WORSHIPERS IN THE CHURCH.

THE CHURCH'S WASHINGTON BRANCH FILED THE SUIT IN U.S. DISTRICT COURT. IT NAMED AS DEFENDANTS THE FBI, THE CIA, THE NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY, THE DEPARTMENTS OF JUSTICE, TREASURY, ARMY, THE U.S POSTAL SERVICE AND INTERPOL.

SCIENTOLOGY IS A NONDENOMINATIONAL RELIGION WHICH CLAIMS 3.1 MEMBERS IN THE UNITED STATES. IT WAS FOUNDED BY FORMER SCIENCE FICTION WRITER L. RON HUBBARD AND IS PRIMARILY NOTED FOR ITS COUNSELING METHODS, INVOLVING THE E-METER, A LIE DETECTOR LIKE DEVICE, TO AID MEMBERS IN ACHIEVING SELF-FULFILLMENT.

THE SUIT SAID THE AGENCIES HAVE USED INFORMERS, INFILTRATORS, ILLEGAL WIRETAPPING AND MAIL SURVEILLANCE "TO COLLECT INFORMATION AND COMPILE DOSSIERS ON CHURCH ORGANIZATIONS AND MEMBERS WHO WERE INVOLVED IN LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONALLY PROTECTED ACTIVITIES".

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